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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC					
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 22 April 1955

SUBJECT Security Forces

NO. OF PAGES 6

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DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [REDACTED] two distinct organizations made up the national security forces in Czechoslovakia. These were the State Security Police (StB - Statni bezpecnost) and the National Security Police (NB - Narodni bezpecnost). Both of these organizations, [REDACTED] constituted the National Security Corps (SNB - Sbor narodni bezpecnosti); and both were subordinate to the Ministry of Interior.

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2. [REDACTED] the existence of several other organizations also engaged in security duties. These were the Border Guard (PS - Pohranicni straz), the Interior Guard (VS - Vnitorni straz), the Industrial Guard (ZS - Zavodni straz) and the People's Militia (LM - Lidova milice).

3. [REDACTED] members of the PS and VS were under Army control since men of draft age were being conscripted into these organizations.

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State Security Police (StB - Statni bezpecnost)

4. [REDACTED] members of this organization were concerned with suppression of anti-state activities.

5. He saw a uniformed StB member in Prerov (N 49-27, E 17-27) only once sometime in the summer of 1952. His uniform resembled the Army uniform in type, style, and color. Shoulderboards and visored cap band were red in color. Rank was denoted by small silver stars. He could not recall any additional insignia which may have been worn by this individual. However, source stated, it was also a well known fact that StB personnel for the most part wore civilian clothes.

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several male members of the StB, always in plain clothes, make periodic checks on citizenship identification papers of workers vacationing there. These inspections were generally carried out between 2000 and 2200 hours. First, StB men looked over the register, and after that they checked all the rooms of the rest center, where they examined the papers of all persons present. On one occasion they mentioned that there existed a number of falsified citizenship identification papers in Czechoslovakia and also that new ones were going to be issued in 1955.

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The National Security Police (NB - Narodni bezpecnost)

6. [] this was a routine civil and criminal police organization which performed town patrols, investigated non-political criminal cases and controlled city and highway traffic.

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[] NB members were commonly referred to as SNB (see paragraph 1, above) although the entrance sign at their precinct headquarters in the city of Prerov read as follows:

OKRSEK IV (DISTRICT IV)
N.B. (N.B.)

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Only the letters N and B were on these signs. [] they stood for National Security (Narodni bezpecnost).

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8. [] never saw or heard of StB and NB personnel living in barracks. [] they lived with their families in private homes when not on duty.

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[] prior to May 1953 NB personnel wore uniforms which were OD in color. However, the head band and shoulderboards were blue in color. He also noted that prior to about January 1954 the ranks of NB enlisted personnel were shown by small silver stars.

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After May 1953, the uniforms of NB enlisted personnel were blue in color and similar in style to those worn by Army personnel. Their head gear consisted of a visored service cap of the same material and color as the rest of the uniform, except that it had a red head band. A Sam Browne belt with a pistol was worn. [] the make or calibre of the pistol.

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11.

After January 1954, shoulderboards of NB personnel were red in color, and the various ranks were designated by yellow stripes. This followed the Army NCO pattern. [] whether the shoulderboards had any piping or any metal insignia, aside from stripes to show rank designation. Shoulderboards of officers were gold in color with red piping, and silver stars were used to designate ranks. [] no knowledge of titles of rank used by the NB.

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The NB members patrolling and checking highway traffic wore jackets, riding trousers, and high boots of dark brown leather. Red shoulderboards were worn on their jackets. In place of the conventional visored service cap, a black leather helmet was worn. These highway patrolmen were generally referred to as "petistovkary" (meaning 500), since they rode Jawa 500 cc motorcycles. They were armed with a SMG, make and calibre [], which they carried on their backs while riding motorcycles.

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Border Guard (PS - Pohranicni straz)

13. [redacted] the PS was organized sometime in 1951. He first saw them guarding borders near Moravsky Svaty Jan (N 48-35, E 17-01), in July 1952, [redacted]

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[redacted] On various other occasions he again saw PS personnel in Brno or on trains. [redacted]

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[redacted] a number of PS officers and enlisted personnel in Decin (N 50-47, E 14-13), a city located in the northern part of Czechoslovakia near the Czech-East German border.

14. [redacted] selected men of draft age were being assigned to PS units in fulfillment of their regular compulsory service, but he did not know what was the basis of selection for such an assignment.

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15. [redacted] a movie short in Prerov entitled: "They will not get through!" This movie illustrated the PS in action and showed how PS men were ready at a moment's notice to pursue illegal border crossers, irrespective of the hour of the day or night, and the manner in which their specially trained dogs attacked and overpowered suspects. The film also showed PS members armed with a rifle, which had attached a mechanism resembling "field glasses" (a telescopic sight).¹ The film narrator explained that PS troops were equipped with weapons which they could aim and fire effectively during darkness, without any outside source of light. The narrator also stated that all these border precautions were taken in order to stop the traffic of spies entering and leaving Czechoslovakia.

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16. The uniforms of PS enlisted personnel were similar in style, material, and color to those issued to the Army. The head gear consisted of a visored cap made of the same material as the rest of the uniform and had a medium green top and some type of insignia which source could not identify. A Sam Browne belt and pistol, make and calibre unknown to source, were also worn.

17. The uniforms of PS officers were similar to those worn by enlisted personnel but of better quality. Female PS officers [redacted] at the "Grand" Hotel while in Decin, wore the same type of uniforms as male officers, except that they wore skirts.

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18. Shoulderboards of both male and female officers were gold in color, [redacted] the color or the existence of piping. Ranks were designated by silver stars. Shoulderboards of EM were medium green, but source could not recall the color of stripes used to designate various NCO ranks. However, he remembered that they followed the Army system and style.

19. Both the officers and EM wore medium green collar flashes, with bronze wolfhound head insignia upon them.

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The Interior Guard (VS - Vnitřní stráž)

20.

[redacted] At the city's railroad station he always saw some officers and EM who, according to hearsay, were members of the Interior Guard. They wore Army-type uniforms with visored service caps which had violet tops. The shoulderboards of the officers were silver or gold in color [redacted] while those of the EM were violet. He could not recall if they had any other insignia. These VS personnel did not carry weapons. [redacted] whether VS troops were stationed in Uhersky Brod itself, but there was a possibility that they were guarding the alleged explosives factory located there.²

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The Industrial Guard (ZS - Zavodni straz)

21. Members of the ZS were engaged as guards at entrances to various factories and public offices. They checked and issued passes and performed general security duties.
22. Industrial Guard personnel wore black uniforms with a black leather Sam Browne belt and visored cap which resembled the visored service caps worn by Army personnel. These visored caps were made out of the same material as the rest of their uniform. They were also armed with pistols whose make and calibre were unknown [redacted] 50X1
- 50X1 They did not wear any shoulderboards or any type of metal insignia. However, a red cloth band about seven centimeters wide, with the letters ZS embroidered in black, was worn around the left arm. [redacted] any insignia of rank on Industrial Guard uniforms.
24. He saw only one female ZS guard at the Rudy Letov Aircraft Plant in Prague/Celakovice, where he went in search of employment in January 1954. She wore the same type of uniform as the male guards; only instead of trousers, a skirt of the same material as the rest of the uniform was worn. 50X1
- People's Militia (LM - Lidova Milice)
25. [redacted] the LM was organized sometime in 1948, shortly after the Communists had taken over the Czechoslovak government. This organization, [redacted] was instituted for the suppression of uprisings and unrest among workers. As far as he knew, all large factories and plants had an LM unit organized from among its employees. He believed that LM membership was purely voluntary and "in the interest of the Party". 50X1
26. [redacted] 50X1
- However, the Prerov electrical power plant, where about 300 workers were employed, had a LM unit organized which consisted of about 30 men. [redacted] Prerov had to furnish them with bus transportation to an unidentified location for training ([redacted] several times in 1953. [redacted] information from drivers who were assigned to that task. 50X1 50X1
27. [redacted] employed as a bookkeeper at the ROH rest center at Mikulcin Vrch, an unidentified LM unit armed with rifles arrived there in a Tatra 111 truck one afternoon sometime during the summer. [redacted] they were supposed to conduct training near the Rest Center. But instead of training, they just sat around, cooked their supper, and left after eating it. On another occasion, they marched off into the woods in a military formation; but when it started to rain, they returned and joined the vacationing workers at the Rest Center. 50X1
28. [redacted] an LM unit was also organized from among Prerov railroad employees, some of whom he knew personally. About twice in the summer of 1953, at about 1400 hours, he saw approximately 25 men in their LM uniforms near the railroad station. He believed that this was for the purpose of training. [redacted] female LM members only in movie newsreels. [redacted] never personally. 50X1
29. [redacted] any additional LM units which may have been organized at other agencies and bureaus in Prerov or elsewhere.

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30. The LM uniforms consisted of conventional two-piece, blue-cloth working clothes; blue berets; and a black leather belt. Around the left arm was worn a red band approximately eight centimeters wide, with the letters LM embroidered in black. Members of LM units, [redacted] were always armed with either a rifle or a pistol. [redacted] the calibre or make of these weapons.
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31. Men in charge of LM units wore a cloth insignia which was pinned onto the left side of the chest. For details of the insignia see page 6. Source had no further information on LM insignias.

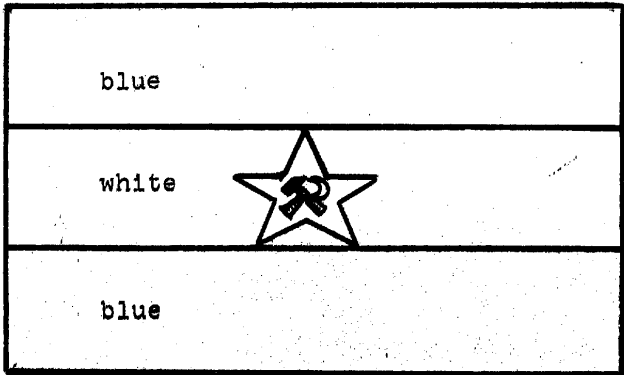
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People's Militia Leader's Insignia
(approximate size, not to scale)



Star - red metal

Sickle and hammer - yellow

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Date of Information: Summer of 1954



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